3. Exploration of alternative techniques in relation to the existing statistics;

4. Identification of new data series that may be generated in keeping pace with the expanding economy; and

5. Evaluation of appropriate methodologies for collection of data in relation to the new data requirements.

Pending Projects

1352. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 188 projects each worth Rs. 100 crores, commuting an estimated Rs. 1,3,496 crores, are pending over long periods, some of them even for 11 years, involving huge cost-overrun to the extent of 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and reasons for delay in each case, as also schedules of original and revised target dates of completion and original and revised estimates of expenditure;

(c) the steps being taken to speed up their completion as per the revised targets; and

(d) the details of the monitoring mechanism established to keep track of completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) As on 31st October, 2001, 191 projects, each costing Rs. 100 crores and above are on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The cost of 191 projects has increased from Rs. 1,37,461 crores to Rs. 1,60,800 crores, i.e., by 17%. Of these 191 projects, 5 projects are ahead of schedule, 60 projects are on schedule and 59 projects are delayed, remaining 67 projects including 50 Railway projects do not have any definite date of commissioning.

(b) The status of 59 delayed projects with details of their original and revised costs and completion dates are given in the Annexure [See Appendix 194, Annexure No. 13]. In general, the projects have been delayed on account of delay in land acquisition, delay in award of contract, slow progress by evil Contractors, law and order problems, floods, geological surprises while excavations, etc.

(c) The steps taken for early completion of these projects arc as follows:

(i) review of projects on monthly as well as quarterly basis by the Government;

(ii) in depth critical review of the progress by the Project Authorities and the administrative Ministries and follow up with the State Governments (for acquisition of land and provision of infrastrucutre facilities like water and power, ensuring law & order at project sites, etc.), consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays;

(iii) setting up of Empowered Committees in the concerned administrative Ministries for resolution of problems;

(iv) inter-ministerial coordination for resolving problems of inter-ministerial nature;

(v) making available matching funds on yearly basis based on updated costs to ensure timely completion of projects in advanced stages of implementation; and

(vi) reviews by the Minister-in-charge, the Prime Minister's Office and the Cabinet Secretariat.

(d) Projects costing Rs. 100 crores and above are monitored through the Monthly flash Report System, which is based on the milestones for monitoring drawn from the project Evaluation & Review Technique/Critical path Method (PERT/CPM) and Bar Charts of projects. The system lays emphasis on the unachieved milestones and also monitors follow up action by the concerned authorities.

Share of agriculture in GDP

1353. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state: